



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Foreign
Agricultural
Service

Circular Series
FFVS 1-98
January 1998

U.S. Planting Seed Trade

July-November 1997 Highlights

General Trade Summary

U.S. planting seed exports during July-November 1997 totaled 367,913 metric tons valued at \$321.9 million, a decrease of 2.5 percent in volume but an increase of 6 percent in value over the same period in 1996. Imports for the period totaled 50,058 tons (5 percent below a year ago) valued at \$114.5 million (9 percent above last year).

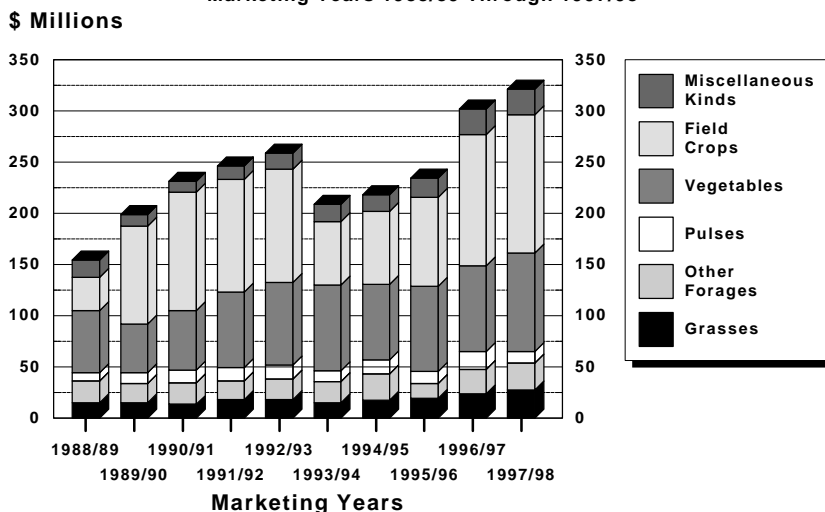
By group, exports for the period were up substantially in all cases except pulses. Total grasses are up substantially, 19 percent by volume to 21,463 tons and 17 percent by value to \$28 million. Two of the three countries targeted for Market Access Program funds show gains in volume and value over last year. Grass seed exports to China reached 700,132 tons valued at \$1.3 million, up 17 percent and 89 percent, respectively. Results so far to Mexico are not as dramatic, showing grass seed volume up 8 percent to 5,749 tons and 16 percent in value to \$7.9 million. Despite positive program results in Chile, grass seed exports are down 30 percent in volume and 14 percent in value due to free trade concessions available to Canada but not the United States.

The export value of seven seedkinds exceed \$10 million as of this period compared to five in the previous report (FFVS 12-97). Those seven seedkinds (field corn, non-durum wheat, soybean, flower, tomato, certified alfalfa, and sweet corn) account for 56 percent of total exports for the period.

Export results by country for the period roughly

July-November U.S. Planting Seed Exports by Group

Marketing Years 1988/89 Through 1997/98



mirror the results by seedkind: seven countries exceeded the \$10 million mark compared to five in the previous report. However, exports by country are much more concentrated than by seedkind as the top seven country markets account for 69 percent of total exports.

Trade Inquiries

The following trade inquiries were recently submitted by a U.S. agricultural office for publication as a "Trade Lead." For more information about Trade Leads call 202-690-3416.

Seeds for Sowing, Tree and Shrub [1209.99.20.00(0)]-Colombia Ornamental Trees: QUANTITY: 10,000 seeds of each of the varieties: Golden, book, lemon, and Araucaria pines and Schefflera. DELIVERY: Every 4 months. PACKAGING: Standard export seed packaging. QUOTE: FOB Miami. BANK: Banco Central

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contact us at the address shown above.

For Further Information Contact:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service
Cotton, Oilseeds, Tobacco and Seeds Division
1400 Independence Avenue S.W.
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Washington, D.C. 20250-1051
Telephone: 202-720-9491
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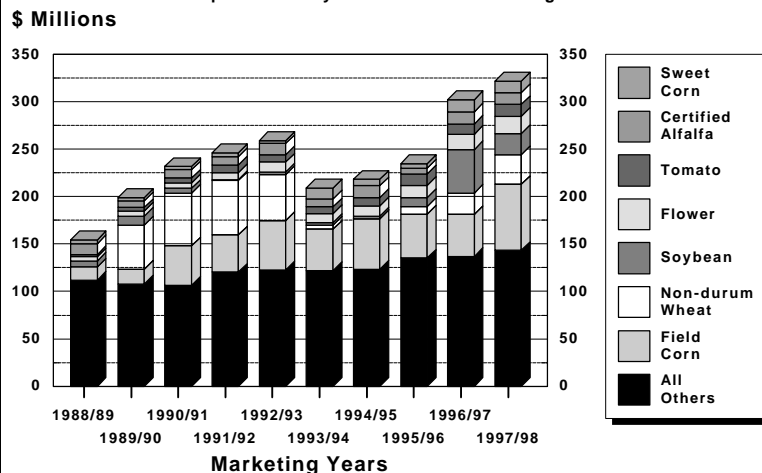
Hipotecario, Barrio Restrepo office branch.
CONTACT: Mr. WILLIAM FERNANDO
RAMIREZ, Industria Marroquinera de Colombia,
Calle 15 Sur No. 16-39, Piso 3-4, Bogota,
Cundinamarca, 3 Colombia Phone: (571)
272-0571 FAX: (571) 366-2957. [Ref
Num:19980127-0003-Bogota(CO1)]

4, Bogota, Cundinamarca, 3 Colombia Phone:
(571) 272-0571 FAX: (571) 366-2957. [Ref
Num:19980203-0004-Bogota(CO1)]

Seeds for Sowing, Flower
[1209.30.00.00(0)]-Colombia (CO)
QUANTITY: five grams of each of the
following varieties: Viola Pirnaer, Viola
schw. Riesen, Ruterrube rot, and Dianthus
barb. QUALITY: Best available.
DELIVERY: April 30, 1998.
PACKAGING: Standard. QUOTE: FOB
Miami. BANK: Banco Central
Hipotecario-Barrio Restrepo, Bogota.
CONTACT: Mr. WILLIAM FERNANDO
RAMIREZ, Industria Marroquinera de
Colombia, Calle 15 Sur No. 16-39, Piso 3-

Top 7 Seedkinds Exported During July-November 1997

Compared to July-November 1988 Through 1996



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